office in Siaton by this family is quite apparent; this does not include other political and civil offices held by the Taykos such as the justice of the peace or chief of police. The control of local political affairs by one prominent family is typical of the Philippines; Siaton merely reflects what is a fairly common pattern. 175* 557

The Japanese Invasion and Occupation of Negros

On December 8, 1941, the Japanese began their invasion of the Philippines, bombing various airfields and military installations throughout the archipelago. Two days later Japanese troops landed at Vigan and Aparri in Luzon. Davao, Mindanao, was invaded December 20 by the Miura Detachment, a reinforced Japanese infantry regiment. They had no difficulty in establishing a firm perimeter defense around Davao, which served as an advance base for the invasion of Indonesia. 175*

News of the Japanese invasion reached Siaton and the mayor instructed the people to place palm leaves on the tin roofs of the church, municipio, and school buildings, for on moonlight nights the roofs shone like polished silver. A volunteer group of men over sixteen years of age was formed to patrol the beaches. Sharp bamboo sticks were placed along the shore and in the water by the people as their forefathers had done once to protect their homes from the Moros. 175* 722

As the tensions due to the imminence of a Japanese invasion increased, some of the more prominent residents

1757
722

of Siaton were suspected of being fifth columnists. The suspected included Cadiane, the parish priest, Fermin Samanis, Felipe Tayko and a few others. The people's suspicions had been aroused because these individuals frequently went to the convento to obtain war news from the priest who received Manila newspapers. These meetings, prior to the invasion of the Philippines by the Japanese, were suspected of being planning conferences to give aid to the potential enemy. A complaint was drawn up by the suspected but it was never presented in court for conditions had become disorganized in Siaton. Once the Japanese invasion of Davao occurred the pending cases of the justice of the peace were dropped and the municipal records taken to hiding places in the hills.

The evacuation of residents living in the poblacion and barrios along the National Road began before the actual invasion of Negros. The people's confidence was badly shaken when President Quezon's illness forced him to leave Corregidor in February, 1942. Enroute to Mindanao whence he escaped to Australia, Quezon crossed from Panay to Bacolod. While in the latter city he wrote:

> This [Negros Occidental] is the principal sugar growing territory of the Philippines, and here are found the largest sugar factories. Here, also, the extreme tension between factory owners, planters and workmen, brought about by the war, naturally had become greater than in any other part of the

country. These difficulties were so severe that the only course open to me was to direct the suspension of grinding and to authorize certain loans by the Government bank to enable wage payments to be made.[167] 175* 722●

Quezon later came to Negros Oriental enroute to Mindanao.

A rendezvous for his escape at Zamboanguita did not succeed since the P-T boats did not appear. Quezon gives a description of his fruitless trip to Zamboanguita which indicates the conditions in Negros Oriental at this time

> The road [to Zamboanguita] ran along the coast... The exodus was painful and was made more so by the people who, alarmed by the news, clogged up the road with vehicles and baggage, prepared to flee into the mountains from the Japanese invasion, which they felt was imminent.[168]

Quezon later left Dumaguete and landed at Oroquieta on the northern coast of Mindanao. From this southern island he flew to Australia and to the United States where he died in 1944. 175*

The occupation of Negros by the Japanese was among the last of their military activities in the Visayas in 1942. Invasion of this island had been planned early in May. Due to the fall of Corregidor and the subsequent negotiations by the Japanese for the surrender of Fil-American forces in the Visayas, the occupation of Negros was delayed. May 26, 1942, the Japanese finally invaded

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[167] Manuel L. Quezon, The Good Fight. New York, D. Appleton-Century, 1946, pp. 288-9. Perhaps the best present summary of Japanese occupation in Negros Oriental is Uldarico S. Baclagon, Philippine Campaigns. Manila, Graphic House, 1952. However, there is no mention of activities in Siaton.

[168] Quezon, op. cit., p. 305.

40: Hart E-5 (.95.) 1954 OA1 Philippines
Central Bisayan OA.4

is sufficiently dried to be threshed. Rice harvesting is everyone's job. Wernstedt reports that in Negros men, women and children harvest the rice. One person can harvest about one cavan of palay per day; an acre producing twelve cavans, the average yield for Negros, requires twelve man-days to harvest.[32]

Caticugan's rice harvest attracts harvesters from as far as Zamboanguita and Dauin, although most of them live in neighboring barrios or sitios. Harvesters are paid according to the speed with which they work. Some cultivators may give their laborers one-seventh of the palay harvested, especially if they are in a hurry to have their paddies harvested and wish to attract help. Harvesters from other barrios who stay several days at one field furnish their own food. The common division of palay in Caticugan, however, is one ganta to the laborer for every eight harvested and threshed. The division is usually made at the end of each day's work.

This harvest practice in Caticugan seems to have developed during the last war when the people harvested their palay rapidly to avoid expropriation by Japanese patrols or guerrillas. For this reason division was made at the end of each day. The usual pre-war practice was to dry palay, put it in one large pile, and thresh all the grain at a later date. The common payment to harvest help was two gantas of rice for every day a man worked at

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[32] Wernstedt, op. cit., p. 199.

252
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262

barriofolk utilized these palms for flour; but during my residence no one was observed making palm flour. In Caticugan the buri is used for suhang production and there are only a few sdiok and saksak palms. The time needed to make the flour discourages most barriofolk.

252

The process of making flour is almost identical for the three palms. The trunk of the palm is cut into sections about 3 feet long. For the buri, leaves that have a whitish tinge along the outer edges of the stem are regarded as a sign that the tree has abundant inner pulp. Some state that the cutting and pounding of the pulp to make flour must be done in silence, "even if you have companions"; otherwise the powder will not separate when put into the container of water.

The outer bark of the palm is peeled and the inner pulp cut into sections and dried for several days. However, some state that a bamboo pick (sagongsong) or a pestle may be used to reduce the inner pith to a pulp. It is possible to store the dried sections of the palm for future use.

When one wishes to make flour the pounded pith or cut sections are soaked in water for several hours until the powder sinks to the bottom of the container. A crude container may be made from the bark of the palm, called solo. Some squeeze the moist pith over an abaca strainer while others pour water on the pith. The mixed water and pulp is called onao. After the powder has settled, the water is poured off. The flour is used to make pancakes,

226
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catch fish in the sea and the money necessary to construct a fish corral.

PELAGIC FISHING: INTRODUCTION

228
471
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433

The South Mindanao Sea is considered one of the richest fishing grounds in the Philippines, according to Dr. Villadolid, Director, Bureau of Fisheries. This section describes the methods of catching fish, types caught, and commercial aspects of pelagic fishing. In the past, cattle was the "big business" of Siaton municipality. Today, with the depletion of the herds during the last war, the fish corral has become the municipality's "big business."[31]

226

Four major methods of catching sea fish are used in Siaton municipality. First, the bonsod or bongsod (fish corral); second, various types of twine or abaca nets; third, the bobo fish trap; and fourth, hook and line fishing from small boats. As has been noted previously, piscicides cannot be considered a major method of catching pelagic fish in Siaton.

123

[31]I did not live in a fishing barrio. However, I spent a great deal of time in Baybay and Malabuhan, often staying in the villages for several days at the time, observing and talking with the residents. Most commercial fishermen lived in the poblacion. Mr. Francisco Baldebrin, vice mayor of the municipality, was one of my most intelligent and willing informants; he managed several fish corrals off Baybay. Other fishermen such as Mr. Pedro Solde and Carding Alonzo, Malabuhan, spent a great deal of time with me, showing me their equipment and explaining their work. For comparative data on Philippine fish traps, types of nets, etc., vide Agustin F. Umali, Guide to the Classification of Fishing Gear in the Philippines. Research Report 17. Washington, D. C., Fish and Wildlife Service, United States Department of the Interior, Government Printing Office, 1950.

gradual increase of money circulating in the barrios over the years, funds were available for the purchase of pots Another reason that may have had some influence on the decline of pottery in this locality was the Japanese occupation of Negros. A number of women who before the war made pots to barter during the harvest, stopped because of their fear of meeting Japanese patrols; they never resumed this activity after liberation.

Four popular sizes of clay cooking pots are sold in Siaton poblacion; Table XLI indicates their capacity and cost.

TABLE XLI

CLAY COOKING POTS SOLD IN SIATON POBLACION

Capacity (pounds of clean rice)	Cost (U. S.)
1.5	5¢
2.25	8¢
4.5	10¢
10.0	15¢

Pots holding as much as 25 pounds of clean rice are made in Daro but they are rarely sold in Siaton. The local merchants will not risk bringing these large, expensive, and rather fragile pots from Dumaguete since breakage would mean a considerable loss. Larger pots are used when one cooks for a fiesta or wedding feast. Today, however, the 5-gallon kerosene can is replacing this large size pot. The smallest clay pots are called anlet in Siaton and anglet in Masbate Island.